

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic multilayer composite in the form of a hollow body having an inner radially exposed surface and an outer radially exposed surface, the hollow body comprising an inner layer providing the inner radially exposed surface, an intermediate layer, as well as a thermoplastic an outer layer providing the outer radially exposed surface,

wherein the inner layer is located immediately adjacent to the intermediate layer, and wherein the intermediate layer is located immediately adjacent to the outer layer,

~~wherein the inner layer is the innermost layer and the outer layer is the outermost layer,~~

wherein the inner layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide homopolymers and a compatibilizer,

wherein the intermediate layer comprises ethylene/vinyl alcohol-copolymer, and

wherein the outer layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

27. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the inner layer is made of a mixture of at least two components,

wherein the first component is a polyamide-homopolymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6 and polyamide 66, and

wherein the second component is a polyamide-homopolymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide 12, polyamide 11, polyamide 1010, polyamide 1212 and polyamide 1012.

28. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 27, wherein the first component is polyamide 6.

29. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 28, wherein the second component is polyamide 12.

30. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 27, wherein the inner layer is produced at a compounding temperature of at most 280°C and at an extrusion temperature of at most 280°C.

31. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 30, wherein the compounding temperature, or the extrusion temperature, or both the compounding temperature as well as the extrusion temperature, are at most 250°C.

32. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 31, wherein the compounding temperature, or the extrusion temperature, or both the compounding temperature as well as the extrusion temperature are in a range between 230°C to 240°C.

33. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 27, wherein the weight ratio of the first component to the second component is in a range between 2:3 to 3:2.

34. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of the first component to the second component is in a range between 2:3 to 1:1.

35. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the inner layer comprises a compatibilizer in a proportion up to 30 parts in weight, with reference to the total of parts in weight of polyamides and compatibilizer.

36. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 35, wherein the proportion of the compatibilizer is up to 20 parts in weight.

37. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 36, wherein the proportion of the compatibilizer is in the range of 5-15 parts in weight.

38. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 35, wherein the compatibilizer is an impact strength modifier, an elastomer or a rubber.

39. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 38, wherein the compatibilizer is an acid-modified ethylene/ α -olefin-copolymer.

40. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the inner layer comprises a compatibilizer in a proportion in the range of 5-35 parts in weight, with reference to the total of parts in weight of polyamides and compatibilizer.

41. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 40, wherein the proportion of the compatibilizer is in the range of 8-30 parts in weight.

42. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 41, wherein the proportion of compatibilizer is in the range of 12-25 parts in weight.

43-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the inner layer comprises anti-static additives, plasticizers, pigments, stabilizers, flame retardant additives or reinforcement.

52. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the multilayer composite is provided as a tube, and wherein the inner layer comprises a polyamide blend and at least one electrically conductive additive.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the intermediate layer further comprises additives for improving mechanical properties.

55. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 54, wherein the additives for improving mechanical properties improve impact strength, stress crack resistance, elongation at break or a combination thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the outer layer comprises at least two components, wherein the weight ratio of the first component of the outer layer to the second component of the outer layer is in the range between 2:3 to 3:2.

57. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 56, wherein the weight ratio of the first component of the outer layer to the second component of the outer layer is in the range between 2:3 to 1:1.

58. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the outer layer further comprises a polyolefin or a thermoplastic elastomer.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the polyamide is a mixture of at least two components, and wherein first component of the outer layer is a polyamide-homopolymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6 and polyamide 66, and the second component of the outer layer is a polyamide-homopolymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide 12, polyamide 11, polyamide 1010, polyamide 1212 and polyamide 1012.

61. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the polyamide homopolymer is a mixture of at least two components and wherein the first component of the outer layer is polyamide 6.

62. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 61, wherein the second component of the outer layer is polyamide 12.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the compatibilizer is in a proportion up to 30 parts in weight, with reference to the total of the parts in weight of polyamides and compatibilizer.

65. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 64, wherein the compatibilizer is in a proportion up to 20 parts in weight.

66. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 65, wherein the compatibilizer is in a proportion in the range between 5-15 parts in weight.

67. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the outer layer comprises a compatibilizer in a proportion in the range of 5-35 parts in weight, with reference to the total of parts in weight of polyamides and compatibilizer.

68. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 67, wherein the compatibilizer is in a proportion in the range between 8-30 parts in weight.

69. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 68, wherein the compatibilizer is in a proportion in the range between 12-25 parts in weight.

70. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim [[63]] 26, wherein the compatibilizer of the outer layer is an impact strength modifier, an elastomer or a rubber.

71. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 70, wherein the compatibilizer of the outer layer is an acid-modified ethylene/ α -olefin copolymer.

72. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a hollow body of a thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, which comprises joining the inner layer, the intermediate layer, as well as the outer layer and optionally additional intermediate layers in a coextrusion process to form the hollow body.

73. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 72, wherein the hollow body is in the form of a hose, a pipe or a container.

74. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the thermoplastic multilayer composite is in the form of a tubing.

75. (Previously Presented) A tubing according to claim 74, wherein the tubing is suitable to be used with liquid fuel.

76. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 26, wherein the thermoplastic multilayer composite is in the form of a filler neck for a fuel tank, a fuel system vent pipe, or a vent pipe for a crankcase.

77. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic multilayer composite in the form of a hollow body having an inner radially exposed surface and an outer radially exposed surface, the hollow body comprising an inner layer providing the inner radially exposed surface, a supplemental inner layer, an intermediate layer, as well as a thermoplastic an outer layer providing the outer radially exposed surface.

wherein the inner layer is located immediately adjacent to the intermediate layer and immediately adjacent to the supplemental inner layer, and wherein the intermediate layer is located immediately adjacent to the outer layer,

~~wherein the supplemental inner layer is the innermost layer and the outer layer is the outermost layer,~~

wherein the inner layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer,

wherein the supplemental inner layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer as well as additives that lead to electrical conductivity,

wherein the intermediate layer comprises ethylene/vinyl alcohol-copolymer, and

wherein the outer layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

78. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite in the form of a hollow body having an inner radially exposed surface and an outer radially exposed surface, the hollow body comprising an inner layer providing the inner radially exposed surface, an intermediate layer, as well as an outer layer,

wherein the inner layer is located immediately adjacent to the intermediate layer, and wherein the intermediate layer is located immediately adjacent to the outer layer,

wherein the inner layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide homopolymers and a compatibilizer,

wherein the intermediate layer comprises ethylene/vinyl alcohol-copolymer, and

wherein the outer layer comprises a thermoplastic.

79. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 78, wherein the outer layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

80. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 79, wherein the outer layer provides the outer radially exposed surface of the hollow body.

81. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite in the form of a hollow body having an inner radially exposed surface and an outer radially exposed surface, the hollow body comprising an inner layer, an intermediate layer, as well as an outer layer providing the outer radially exposed surface,

wherein the inner layer is located immediately adjacent to the intermediate layer, and wherein the intermediate layer is located immediately adjacent to the outer layer,

wherein the inner layer comprises a thermoplastic,

wherein the intermediate layer comprises ethylene/vinyl alcohol-copolymer, and

wherein the outer layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

82. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 81, wherein the inner layer comprises a mixture of different polyamide homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

83. (New) A thermoplastic multilayer composite according to claim 82, wherein the inner layer provides the inner radially exposed surface of the hollow body.